

To: Land, Kelcey[Land.Kelcey@epa.gov]
Cc: Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]; Ackerman, Joyce[Ackerman.Joyce@epa.gov]; Williams, Laura[williams.laura@epa.gov]
From: Way, Steven
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 8:45:57 PM
Subject: FW: Gold King Site - Mine Blowout Notification Time Line from 5-Aug-2015

This communication was initiated from the Gold King Mine by the OSC – Hays Griswold by radio.

Steven Way

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Emergency Response Unit

US EPA - Region 8

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From: Stover - DNR, Bruce [mailto:bruce.stover@state.co.us]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:21 PM
To: Way, Steven
Cc: Allen Sorenson
Subject: Notification Time Line from 5-Aug-2015

Steve,

Allen asked me to relay to you what transpired on our way down Cement Creek immediately after the incident at GK last week.

After seeing the severity of the event we both raced down the road toward Silverton to alert downstream users.

We encountered a wooden saw-horse road block and a San Juan County worker in a blue San Juan County pickup truck at the second culvert crossing, who had a radio in his truck. I could hear people talking on the radio so know he was connected. I told him the Golt King Mine had blown out and released a flood of water; he said "yes we know, equipment is on the way:.

I yelled back to Allen behind me in his truck "They already know", and we sped off again. We encountered a second SJ county truck heading up, (and the driver actually yelled at me to slow down!). I observed the creek and caught up to the head of the flow, and realized there was no huge wall of water as I'd thought, creek was maybe a foot to 2 feet higher and of course colored.

We stopped in town at the County court house and immediately I called the CDPHE spill hotline, while Allen called the national EPA spill emergency hotline.

I spoke to a Anne at CDPHE and told her what had happened, she was very helpful, took all the information, and assured me that downstream users would be notified. I said that needed to include all users, both municipal and agricultural and she said that would be done.

I then called my bosses at EDO and let them know what was going on. They then relayed the warning to CPW, as well as The Southern Ute tribe (that I know of) and possibly many others.

I then waited at the bridge over Cement Creek for the flow to pass, and realized the guy on the motorcycle next to me was Bruce, the SJ County Sheriff. He said he'd been up Cement Creek writing tickets on his motorcycle and spotted that something was wrong. He did have a radio with it and was in communication with County dispatch. The Sheriff, Allen and I and several others stood and watched the flow approach and go under the bridge in Silverton, at 12:47pm August 5th.

After the flow passed Allen and I collected samples at A72. The rest of the afternoon was spent on the phone and in contact with DNR managers.

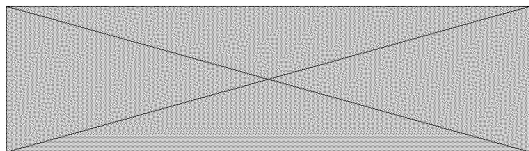
I have a video of the flow as it reached Silverton, if that's of any value. It's not very spectacular. The water rose a couple feet, some sticks and floating debris, then the color changed rather dramatically.

Let me know if you need anything else on this issue.

When things settle down, I'm available to help circle the wagons.

--

Bruce K. Stover
Director
Inactive Mine Reclamation Program



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